

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
January 10, 2014**

Host: James Lindholm – Nearshore Ecology (CSU Monterey Bay)

Location: Tanimura and Antle Family Memorial Library
Building 508, Rm 1170
Divarty Street
California State University Monterey Bay
Seaside, CA

Date: Friday, January 10th, 2014; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Members:

| | Discipline | Primary/ Alternate | Name | Institution |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| X | Research Coordinator | | DeVogelaere, Andrew | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary |
| | Biological Oceanography | primary | Kudela, Raphael | University of California, Santa Cruz |
| X | Biological Oceanography | alternate | Chavez, Francisco | Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute |
| X | Deep-Sea Ecology | primary | Cailliet, Greg | Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (retired) |
| X | Deep-Sea Ecology | alternate | Haddock, Steve | Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute |
| X | Estuarine Ecology | primary | Lindley, Steve | NOAA Fisheries Service |
| | Estuarine Ecology | alternate | Wasson, Kerstin | Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation |
| | Fisheries | primary | Grimes, Churchill | NOAA Fisheries Service (retired) |
| | Fisheries | alternate | | |
| | Marine & Coastal Geology | primary | Storlazzi, Curt | United States Geological Survey |
| | Marine & Coastal Geology | alternate | Paull, Charles | Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute |
| | Marine Conservation Biology | primary | | |
| | Marine Conservation Biology | alternate | Micheli, Fiorenza | Hopkins Marine Station |
| | Marine Policy | primary | | |
| | Marine Policy | alternate | David, Aimee | Monterey Bay Aquarium |
| X | Nearshore Ecology | primary | Lindholm, James † | California State University Monterey Bay |
| | Nearshore Ecology | alternate | Carr, Mark | University of California, Santa Cruz |
| | Physical Oceanography | primary | | |
| X | Physical Oceanography | alternate | Ramp, Steve | Soliton Ocean Services, Inc. |
| X | Shelf & Slope Ecology | primary | Sogard, Susan | NOAA Fisheries Service |
| | Shelf & Slope Ecology | alternate | | |
| | Social Sciences | primary | Pomeroy, Caroline | California Sea Grant Extension Program |
| | Social Sciences | alternate | Scorse, Jason | Monterey Institute of International Studies |
| | Water Quality | primary | Hunt, John † | University of California, Davis |
| | Water Quality | alternate | Epel, David | Hopkins Marine Station |

*Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

†Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

RAP Coordinator:

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| X | Burton, Erica | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary |
|---|---------------|--|

GUESTS:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Aiken, Emily | California State University Monterey Bay |
| Esgro, Michael | California State University Monterey Bay |
| Godwin, Bill | FUGRO Consultants |
| Joseph, John | Naval Postgraduate School |
| Lonhart, Steve | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary |
| Rosevelt, Carolyn | California State University Monterey Bay |

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/Modifications to the Agenda (Lindholm)

Condition Report: Guide for Developing Sanctuary Condition Reports (Lindholm)

- ONMS National Research Coordinator (Steve Gittings) revised criteria, incorporated RAP input
- RAP has opportunity to comment on draft report
- **ACTION:** Lindholm will resend draft guidelines to RAP asking for comments; members to focus particularly on the section regarding assessing uncertainty to ratings

HOST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

CSUMB Research Update (Lindholm)

- Division of Science and Environmental Policy
 - B.S. Environmental Science, Technology and Policy (formerly ESSP)
 - M.S. Applied Marine and Watershed Science
 - B.S. Biology
 - B.S. Marine Science
 - B.A. Environmental Studies
- The ecology of rippled scour depressions
 - Mapping of state waters by Rikk Kvitek
 - Seafloor mapping revealed previously unidentified rocky reefs
 - Identification of other habitats: persistent rippled scour depressions (RSDs); make up 8% of seafloor habitat in central coast region
 - Baseline characterization of MPAs (Point Arena to La Jolla): imagery of shelf and upper slope
 - On the continental shelf within Monterey Bay,
 - Overall mean faunal density (fish and invertebrates) was lower inside RSDs in the shallow, intermediate, and deep zones than outside
 - Faunal richness was also lower inside RSDs in each depth than outside RSDs
 - RSDs contained significantly more young-of-the-year rockfishes and small flatfishes than adjacent fine sediments
 - Hallenbeck, Kvitek, Lindholm. 2012. Rippled scour depressions add ecologically significant heterogeneity to soft-bottom habitats. Marine Ecology Progress Series 468:119-133
 - Next steps: systematic investigation of biology inside/outside RSDs along entire coast

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Summary of December 12th SAC Meeting at Moss Landing (Lindholm)

- SAC drafted resolution to ban seismic air gun surveys
- SAC wants RAP input
- RAP may receive official request from SAC
- **ACTION:** James will report back at the next SAC meeting, during the verbal updates from working groups.
 - As written, the RAP can provide only minimal feedback on the draft resolution because the request of the RAP was not specific
 - If the SAC wants to move forward on the issue, the RAP is willing to help identify speakers for a half-day seminar; the RAP thinks the SAC needs information beyond the science on the topic: What are the current regulatory limitations? What are the benefits of activities that give of sound?
 - Review the RAP policy on how to interact with the SAC (http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/rap/history/rap_policies.html)
- **ACTION:** DeVogelaere will send electronic version of draft resolution to RAP members so they can ask constituents if wording in the proposed SAC resolution affects research activities (past, present, and future)
- Reminder: RAP developed policy for how SAC should request RAP input (http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/rap/history/rap_policies.html)

RAP RESEARCH PRIORITIES

MBNMS FY14 Annual Operating Plan (DeVogelaere)

- DeVogelaere noted highlights
 - Marine Debris
 - Theme of 2014 Currents Symposium
 - Beach COMBERS: summarize past entanglement data in marine debris
 - Marine debris incorporated into volunteer programs
 - *M/V Med Taipei* Lost Container survey in December 2013
 - Big Sur Region
 - Rocky shore/kelp forest surveys
 - Nearshore characterization
 - Benthic protections
 - MBNMS submitted EFH proposal
 - Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESA): increase research within SESAs (will develop research plan)
 - Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (NMFS and MBNMS): MBNMS focus, linked to Condition Report
 - Condition Report
 - Large, multi-institution proposal to develop marine biodiversity observing system
 - Key management issues
 - Permits: reorganize staffing duties (Erica Burton phasing out; Sophie De Beukelaer phasing in)
 - New Memorandum of Agreement w/non-profit foundation; cooperative agreement

- Sanctuary Exploration Center (Santa Cruz): money for new exhibits, bookstore, staffing, volunteer programs
- Coastal Discovery Center (San Simeon): also monetary challenge
- Social media development (Twitter, Facebook, website); Your Sanctuary TV
- Resource Protection
 - Automatic Identification System (AIS) tracking report
 - Sediment management plan off Santa Cruz harbor
 - Water Quality protection grants
 - Best management practice with farmers
 - ASBS: MBNMS facilitating regional approach to monitoring
- Education
 - Outreach: various local events
- Field Ops
 - Maintaining R/V Fulmar (regional vessel)
 - MBNMS looking into acquiring appropriate day boat (e.g., dive ops)

Big Sur Region Research Update (Steve Lonhart/MBNMS)

- Lonhart provided overview of research in the area
- Intertidal research and monitoring
 - Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) marine resources surveys
 - Black abalone surveys and monitoring
 - Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) and Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) monitoring
 - CalTrans-related projects
 - TENERA monitoring
 - Alder Creek Slide
- Subtidal research and monitoring
 - PISCO monitoring
 - MPA monitoring
 - Linington Lab at UCSC: marine-derived microbial products
 - Big Sur Nearshore Characterization (to address slide effects and decisions)
 - Alder Creek Slide
- Resource protection
 - Plane wreck discovery
- Project summaries on SIMoN website (<http://sanctuarysimon.org>)

STAFF REQUEST TO RAP

Oil spills and long-term monitoring programs (Burton)

- During the summer of 2006, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) participated in an oil spill drill to better prepare for an emergency response
- In the event of a real spill, the MBNMS would assess damages to the resources during and after the spill, as part of a Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA)
- At the September 2006 RAP meeting, RAP discussed institutions, tools, and datasets that could be made available in the future
- MBNMS staff posed two questions

- If there is a big oil spill, who has a long-term monitoring program that could help assess the damage?
- What would scientists like to be notified about in case of a big oil spill, such as getting boats moved out of a harbor before oiled in, or remove monitoring buoys before getting oiled?
- Members of the research community, representing more than 19 long-term monitoring projects, responded to the inquiry
- List of collaborators was produced, and procedures were created:
 - In the event of an oil spill, regional research partners will be notified of the event (via listserv/phone) by MBNMS staff
 - Partners may choose to remove gear that would be damaged by oil
 - Partners may want to send out a rapid response team to collect samples immediately
 - Partners may agree to provide expert advice to assist in response decisions
 - Partners may share their updated long-term monitoring findings with MBNMS Staff, to aid in determining damage to the resources.
- The list is in need of an update
- **ACTION:** Burton will email list of collaborators to RAP, Research Interests, Research Permittees; asking for changes, updates, additions; due: February 21

MEETING UPDATES (e.g., conferences)

Sanctuary Currents Symposium (Lindholm)

- Lindholm provided update
- Theme: “Marine Debris: How Do You Pitch In?”
- When: Saturday, April 26, 2014
- Where: CSUMB, University Center
- Research Posters: revising judging criteria; call for abstracts sent out Jan 13; due Feb 28
- Ricketts Award: Francisco Chavez
- Exhibits featuring marine debris programs
- For more info, see: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/symposium.html>

Western Society of Naturalists (Steve Lonhart/MBNMS)

- Lonhart provided summary of November 2013 meeting in Oxnard/Ventura
- Ocean Acidification was the hot topic; especially in tropical systems
- Plenary, contributed papers, and poster sessions
- Lifetime achievement award: Jim Morin
- Naturalist of the Year: Dan Richards
- Outgoing President Mike Graham; Incoming president Steve Morgan
- Student-heavy conference (~600 attendees)
- Affordable
- 200+ student presentations (2 poster sessions)
- Student funding to attend
- Next meeting in Tacoma, WA
- For more info, see: <http://westsocnat.com/>

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Ramp: add member with expertise in ocean acoustics?
 - Revisit RAP member policies including representation: discipline vs institution; available at: http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/rap/history/rap_policies.html
- Continuation of SAC resolution to ban seismic air gun surveys

Future Agenda Items (running list):

- MBNMS Updates:
 - Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs)
 - Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)
- Results of sand mining plant study (Scorse)
- Results of Pleasure Point Surf property value (Scorse)
- WQ monitoring web portals: Ocean Health for CA (per Hunt)
- Sept/Nov 2013 meeting: regional water board on assessment of monitoring data for 12 years at coastal confluences (30 streams/rivers); report written July 2013; (per Hunt)
- Leadership changes at Big NOAA, and how affects little NOAA (MBNMS)

2014 RAP Meeting Schedule and Locations

| Date | Host | Location |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| January 10 | Lindholm | CSU Monterey Bay |
| March 14 | Haddock | Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute |
| May 9 | Scorse | Monterey Institute of International Studies |
| July 11 | Wasson | Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve |
| September 12 | Storlazzi | U.S. Geological Survey |
| November 14 | Pomeroy | Center for Ocean Health, UCSC |
